

## **Remarks**

The Office action mailed October 5, 2006 includes a restriction requirement requiring applicants to elect one of the following groups of claims: Group I (Claims 1-27, which are drawn to a multi-channel particle sorting system); Group II (Claims 28-44, which are drawn to a multi-channel particle sorting method); Group III (Claims 45-64, which are drawn to a multi-channel particle classification system); and Group IV (Claims 65-80, which are drawn to a multi-channel classification method). Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group III (Claims 45-64) for prosecution on the merits without traverse.

Claims 1-44 and 65-80 are cancelled herein as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants expressly reserve the right to obtain patent protection directed to the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more divisional applications.

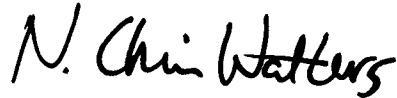
Claim 45 is amended to specify that the integrated platform comprises a common processor and to further specify that the common processor is programmed to receive time-varying output signals from the flow cytometry units substantially continuously and to process the output signals. Support for this amendment is in originally filed "claim" D19 on page 157 of the application as filed and Figs. 40 and 41. The Summary of the Invention and Abstract are amended to track the language of claim 45 as amended. Claims 49, 53, 55-58, and 62-64 are also amended herein.

### Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and substantive examination of claims 45-64 as amended.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$2,160 for an extension of time to file this response and any other fees required by this submission to Deposit account No. 19-1345 in the name of Senniger Powers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Chris Walters". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

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Via EFS